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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARY LANDRIEU, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, whose love upholds and sustains us, thank You for revealing Yourself to us through the faithfulness of the people we see each day. Today, we think of our Senators who labor for liberty. Thank You for their dedication. Thank You, also, for our doorkeepers, who use exceptional diplomacy to assist the visitors who seek to view the legislative process. Thank You for our Senate pages, who remind us that we can excel in serving even in life's morning and that You are honored by youthful enthusiasm.

We express our gratitude for the many staffers who serve with unsung heroism behind the scenes. Bless all who serve You faithfully and whose work helps make our lives meaningful.

Lord, we pause this morning to remember our friend and colleague, Senator CRAIG THOMAS. Console us, console his family, and console his staff during this time of grief. We pray all this in Your comforting Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARY LANDRIEU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 5, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARY LANDRIEU, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Ms. LANDRIEU thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, a visitor to the rodeo in Cheyenne, WY, just last summer would have seen a strong, confident, 73-year-old man holding the reins under a cowboy hat riding past the grandstand with a smile. A few weeks earlier, visitors to rustic Cody, WY, would have seen the same tough cowboy riding down Sheridan Avenue in the Cody Stampede Parade. Just a few days ago, a tourist here in Washington, getting an early start on the monuments, could have seen CRAIG LYLE THOMAS racing off 395 near the 14th Street Bridge in another kind of Mustang on his way to the Capitol for a hard day's work.

In recent years, CRAIG THOMAS led an effort here in the Senate to honor the deeds and the spirit of the American cowboy, and his very full American life came to a sad end last night. We, his friends and colleagues, remember him as the modern-day embodiment of the cowboy ideals he celebrated and loved.

He was raised on a ranch just outside Cody, the rodeo capital of the world, in the Big Horn Basin, a windy town in

the northwest corner of the Cowboy State. He grew up in the shadow of Heart Mountain to the north and Carter Mountain to the south and under the memory of Cody's founder, William Frederick Cody, known to history and to schoolchildren from Butte to Boston as Buffalo Bill.

He was a humble man with an adventurous spirit from a lonely corner of the country who put his family, his country, and his State above all else. He served as a marine from 1955 to 1959, retiring as a captain. He married a woman with a generous heart. My wife Elaine is a good friend of Susan's, and one of the joys of Elaine's time in the last few years was being invited out to Susan's school to speak to her students.

CRAIG was the proud father of four children—Lexie, Patrick, Gregg, and Peter—who today mourn their father's death.

CRAIG was as much at home on horseback, roping, and ranching, as he was in a committee hearing room. How many times he must have daydreamed about being back home, out of a suit, with a rope in his hand and a steer in his sights.

CRAIG had served in public office 22 years when he fell ill at a church service with Susan last November in Casper. Shortly after that, the people of Wyoming elected him to his third term in the Senate, with 70 percent of the vote. A born fighter, CRAIG's doctors said he would be back here in January. He beat their predictions by a month. He was here in December. CRAIG suffered quietly over the last half year, as all of us hoped for the best. It wasn't to be.

Every year, CRAIG pressed for a day that would memorialize the iconic status of the cowboy in American history, a day that honored their courage, hard work, honesty, and grit. I can think of no better way of honoring that spirit than by honoring this man who embodied it to the fullest. By his devotion

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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